

September 2010

Welcome Back!

Team Brown

Important Dates:

Sept 2:

First Day of
School

Sept 6:

Labor day:
No School

Sept 14:

Primary Voting
Day: No School

Sept 23:

Open House
@ 6:30pm

Oct 11:

Columbus Day
No School

Nov 2:

Voting Day
No School

Nov 11:

Veteran's Day
No School

Nov12:

End of First
Quarter

Welcome to Eighth Grade

~~Be Respectful, Be Prepared, Be Responsible ~~

These are words to live by on team Brown. Students must be respectful; of themselves, each other and faculty. Students must be prepared and bring the necessary materials to class. Generally this includes a pen or pencil, notebook, textbook and a willingness to learn. Students must also be responsible for their schoolwork, homework and actions.

Eighth grade is a time of growth and development. Your child will mature from a humble middle school student, to a young adult ready for high school. It takes teachers, parents and the student to make this transition a successful one. All of us on team Brown are committed to this mission.

We look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,



BROWN

Middle School at Parkside Mission Statement:

It is the mission statement of the Middle School at Parkside to earn promotion to the next grade level by demonstrating essential skills in reading and writing. This will be accomplished by extending language arts instruction in all grade levels. In addition, language arts will be integrated throughout all curricula.

Life Science: Ms. Marsan

This year's science curriculum is focused on living organisms such as plants and animals. We will cover units such as cells, evolution, human biology, biodiversity and ecology. To understand these concepts students will engage in many inquiry labs, hands on activities, research projects and take home projects. Students will be responsible for homework, studying skills and note taking. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the year. I look forward to an enriching and engaging year.

Teacher email addresses:

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bmcmillan@mansd.org
ddrewniak@mansd.org
sproulx@mansd.org

Special Education Mr. Proulx

If your child has an IEP, he/she will be working with my assistant and myself. I will be contacting you at the beginning of the school year and look forward to working with your child.

Social Studies: Mr. Bombardier

We Will be studying American history this year. We will begin the year with European expropriation, follow the development of the colonies to an independent country and end the year with the events that lead to the Civil War. Various projects will be assigned including a heavy focus on computer literacy. Powerpoint presentations, research papers and webquests are just some of the types of assignments that your child will be completing in my class.

Math: Ms. Seitz

Eighth grade mathematics will focus on five basic units of study. The first is the number system in which students will be able to understand that there are numbers that are not rational and will be able to approximate them by rational numbers. The second unit is equations and expressions where students will analyze and solve linear equations. The next unit includes functions in which students will use them to model relationships between quantities. Then students will study geometry and solve real world problems. Lastly students will investigate patterns of data using statistics and probability.

Language Arts/ Reading: Ms. McMillan

Grade level novels will be read and discussed at length this year. Such examples are *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli and *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes. Various short stories, poems and articles will also be read. Students' reading abilities will be tested throughout the year using SRI testing.

Language Arts/ Writing: M. Drewniak

The skills and strategies your child will be introduced to, or have re-enforced, in the writing portion of their language arts studies are based on the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) as put forth by Tri-Sate New England (TSNE), of which New Hampshire is a partner.

One fundamental goal of the 8th grade curriculum is to provide your child solid instruction with and hands-on practice with real world skills. Key concepts that will be introduced, modeled, and practiced will include:

- Developing effective communication skills
- Expanding vocabulary and improving their spelling
- Learning to use reading skills to improve their comprehension of materials they read in or out of school
- Helping make the most of study time with note taking tips, research skills, and test taking strategies
- Reinforcing mastery of common grammar conventions
- Strengthening writing skills
- Incorporating technology into their research, writing and publishing of various genres of writing

Another goal of the 8th grade is to prepare your child socially and emotionally for their high school experience. This is accomplished by identifying acceptable and age-appropriate behavior, modeling it, and expecting everyone who walks into room 212 to exhibit it. Also, as 8th graders, your child is expected to assume leadership roles in school activities and functions. I constantly encourage them to do so and expect team members of 8Brown to become the formal/informal leaders of Parkside.

I anxiously await the start of the new school year and meeting your child.